

# **Kentucky Agricultural Development Board**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 21 – 23, 2000**

**The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board met at Western Kentucky University's South Campus Conference Center 12:45p.m. – 6:00p.m. Thursday, September 21; 8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. Friday, September 22; and 8:30a.m. – 6:00p.m. Saturday, September 23.**

### **Members Present:**

Governor Paul E. Patton, Chairman; Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, Vice Chairman; John-Mark Hack, Executive Director; Daniel Case; Larry Clay; Seth Conner; Susan Harkins; Wayne Hunt; Keith Jeffries; Sam Lawson; Dean C. Oran Little; Sam Moore; Willa Poynter; Eddie Sellers; Mike Slaughter; and Secretary Gene Strong.

### **Others Present:**

Sheri Arms, Community Farm Alliance; Sean Cutter, McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland; Aimee Russillo, Kentucky Wood Products; Charles Miller and John Stevenson, KY Cattlemen's Assoc.; J. L. Cole, Kentucky Vet. Med. Assoc.; Paul Deaton, Central KY Ag. Development Assoc.; Gene Barber, Eugene Barber & Sons Livestock Assoc.; Donald Dunn, USDA-FSA; Lesa Stevenson, US Pony Clubs; James C. Currens, KY Geological Survey; Cynthia Bohn GIAC/KVS; Dick Fox, IGF Insurance Company; Larry Jeffries, Forage and Grassland Council; Dr. Jack McAllister, KY Milk Producers; Ottie Pantle & Will Southerland, KY Horticulture Council; David Switzer, KY Thoroughbred Assoc.; Dean Wallace, Council for Burley Tobacco; Terry Ashby, KY Poultry Federation; Tom Congleton, Central KY Hog Marketing Cooperative; Dennis Liptrap, KY Pork Producers; Jimmy Doss, Hopkinsville Elevator Cooperative; Lionel Williamson and Heath Hoagland, KY Center for Cooperatives; Steve Austin, Bluegrass Tomorrow; Steve Coleman, KY Pace Board; Dr. Jenks Britt, WKU; and Mark Farrow, Ed Duvall, and Jim Mansfield, KY Department of Agriculture.

### **Staff Present:**

Ben Gramig, Joel Neaveill, Lisa Thomas and Tim Woods, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

### **September 21: Board Operations Policies & Procedures:**

John-Mark Hack, Executive Director, facilitated the meeting using the Nominal Group Technique model. This technique allowed the board members to brainstorm on proposed board operations policies and procedures. Members then chose five of the issues listed that they felt were priority. The top five Board Policies and Procedures were identified by totaling the number of votes it received.

First the members adopted a Mission Statement, which was derived from the legal parameters set by HB 611. Based on this mission statement they were able to identify priority areas. The five priority areas identified were: operating policies; application and evaluation processes; board power and delegation of authority; definition of short and long-term goals; and assisting the tobacco farmers.

Sam Lawson proposed a staffing plan for the Agricultural Development Board that included a chief operating officer, an economist, an agricultural entrepreneurship program director, a finance person, a communications director, and a cooperative development specialist. After discussion, the board decided to combine the positions of operating officer and finance into one position that would oversee other board staff. Discussion of the scope of operation for the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Program followed. The two main areas of activity will be education and technical assistance for farmers. The overall objective of the program is to build entrepreneurial capacity among the farmers of the Commonwealth and provide financial incentives to facilitate this.

Next, Dick Fox, \*IGF Insurance Company, discussed ideas for involving agricultural business leaders in business recruitment and development.

### **September 22:**

\*A summary of the prioritized Board Operations Policies and Procedures was compiled by staff and distributed to the board members. The board members reviewed and discussed the summary. Through this discussion the board members fleshed out the details of its operating procedures.

Presentations were made by various agricultural entities. During a 20 minute presentation each entity was to 1) convey the short-term goals for the particular industry in the state of Kentucky stating what key things need to happen in the next twelve months to move the particular industry in a direction consistent with statewide goals 2) provide a broad overview of the long-term plan for the individual industry in Kentucky 3) enumerate infrastructure and marketing needs of the particular industry that are key to its success in the Commonwealth 4) provide any suggestions for implementation that are available and 5) \* provide

the Board members with a concise executive summary, no longer than two pages in length, that contains all of the items presented and contact information for the board members.

The following industries made presentations to the board: Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Forage and Grassland Council; Kentucky Dairy Producers; Kentucky Horticulture Council; Kentucky Aquaculture Association; Kentucky Thoroughbred Association; Council for Burley Tobacco; Kentucky Poultry Federation; Central Kentucky Hog Marketing Cooperative; Kentucky Vineyard Society/Grape Industry Advisory Council; Hopkinsville Elevator Cooperative; and Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development.

### **September 23:**

Presentations to the board continued. Presentations were made by: Bluegrass Tomorrow; PACE; WKU Poultry Growers Nutrient Processing Center; Kentucky Small Grain Growers Assoc.; and Kentucky Wood Products Competitiveness Corporation.

Upon conclusion of the presentations, the meeting was moved to a smaller room for a "Bringing it all Together" session.

Governor Patton introduced Jody Richards, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kentucky General Assembly. Speaker Richards welcomed the members to the 20<sup>th</sup> House District and thanked them for their dedication and service to the citizens of the Commonwealth and the agricultural industry.

Next, John-Mark Hack introduced Dr. Ron Hustedde. He explained that Dr. Hustedde would work with the Board along the lines of the Nominal Group Technique model.

Dr. Hustedde advised the Board members that he would attempt to assist them in making some decisions. He listed the agenda for the day as follows: 1) clarify the ADBs investment strategy & priorities; 2) clarify the Board's 'Guiding Principals'; 3) decide what a good proposal would look like; and 4) develop the agenda for the next meeting.

The members agreed that before much could be accomplished, an investment philosophy must be determined. After much discussion, the "The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board Investment Philosophy" was adopted.

Governor Patton referred to a handout entitled "Agricultural Development Fund." This document delineated the status of the fund. Educating the members on the exact amount of money for which the board is responsible.

The Farmland Preservation Committee gave a committee report, briefing the Board on basic progress made by the committee. A full report with recommendations on the expenditure of the Rural Development Bond Fund will be made at the October meeting.

Next Governor Patton presented the board members with a document entitled \**"Suggested Guiding Principals."* The board reviewed and revised this document to reflect the direction that it will take in order to accomplish the goal of expanding the economic base of agriculture in Kentucky.

Sam Lawson, Sam Moore, and Wayne Hunt charged staff with the development of a business plan for the AEP. Plan is to be complete and presented at the October board meeting.

Next the board members engaged in a discussion with Dr. Hustedde facilitating. During this discussion the members determined what \*A Good Proposal must include.

The board set the agenda for the October meeting. The agenda will include: 1) Prioritize spending ideas 2) Develop state comprehensive plan 3) Fully develop procedures to handle all proposals and 4) Set regular meeting schedule.

Governor Patton charged staff to develop a draft of a state wide comprehensive plan for presentation at the October meeting. The Governor advised that staff should use any and all available resources (i.e., UK, DOA, etc.) to complete this task.

Sam Lawson moved with a second by Susan Harkins that staff the economist assist in devising comprehensive plan and evaluate proposals in hand. The motion passed.

Next, Wayne Hunt moved and with a second by Sam Moore that staff develop a request for proposals, and that staff should screen proposals based on the economic analysis gathered as part of the state comprehensive plan.

The By-Laws Committee advised that a draft document would be presented at the October meeting.

Governor Patton determined that a regular meeting schedule should be established. It was determined that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month would be most convenient for everyone.

Dean Little presented a document entitled \**County Comprehensive Plan*. This document details for the county what the state board expects. Danny Case moved with a second from Seth Conner that this document and the 'Suggested

Guiding Principles for Board Action' document, be sent to the County Councils through the County Extension Office. The motion passed.

John-Mark Hack thanked everyone for his or her participation and attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

\*Copies of all handouts are on file in the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.